



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Bart Hartman (619) 531-5225
Joe Tash (619) 595-4627
pager (619) 529-1444

INVESTMENT POOL REACHES PINNACLE *National Agency Bestows Highest Rating on County Pool*

San Diego County Treasurer-Tax Collector Bart Hartman announced today that the San Diego County Treasurer's Investment Pool was upgraded to AAA/V1+ by Fitch IBCA, a nationally recognized rating agency. Both the AAA and V1+ ratings are the highest ratings awarded by Fitch IBCA, and reflect the highest credit quality.

"We have worked very hard to achieve this rating," said Hartman. "This upgrade should result in substantial savings to our local agencies when they borrow funds, such as the upcoming Tax and Revenue Anticipation Notes that we will all soon be issuing," Hartman added. The pool had been rated AA+/V1+ by Fitch IBCA.

"We now have an independent validation of the integrity and strength of the Treasurer's Pool," said Chairwoman Pam Slater of the county board of Supervisors. "This upgrade marks the conclusion of the many challenges we faced after the Orange County bankruptcy," Slater added.

The Treasurer's Investment Pool, valued at over \$2 billion, is comprised of funds from the County, K-12 School Districts, and other local agencies. The Pool is managed by the San Diego County Treasurer-Tax Collector, and invests in various fixed-income securities.

Additional information may be obtained from the Treasurer-Tax Collector's main office located in the County Administration Center at 1600 Pacific Highway in downtown San Diego, or by calling (619) 531-5225.

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